

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 19, 21, 22, 25, 26, 29 and 35 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled.

Therefore, claims 19-37 are presented for examination.

Claims 19, 21, 25-26, 28, 30 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng (U.S. Patent 5,694,581) and Jones et al. (U.S. Patent 5,619,723) and further in view of Thompson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,341,342). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over any combination of Cheng, Jones and Thompson.

Cheng discloses a disk array interface system 100 that is compatible and connected to a local bus 105. See Cheng at col. 5, ll. 30-35. The disk array interface system 100 is disclosed as an IDE disk array interface system, which includes a bus master to IDE interface chip 110. The bus master to IDE interface chip 110 is connected to two concurrent IDE channels, wherein each includes four dependent IDE subchannels, and each dependent subchannel is connected to two disks. The disk array interface system 100 thus enables data storage and retrieval from sixteen disks via two independent concurrent IDE channels 120 and 130. The bus master to IDE interface chip 110 enables the data transfer to be performed concurrently on IDE channels (col. 5, ll. 42-64). The disk array interface system 100 also includes an array basic input/output system (BIOS) 140 connected, via a data bus and an address bus, to an industrial standard adaptor (ISA) bus 135 which is connected to a main processor, e.g., a motherboard to provide disk array control signals (col. 6, ll. 4-10).

Nevertheless, applicant submits that Cheng does not disclose or suggest an IDE interface coupled to a system bus that receives disk drive requests from a BIOS via the system bus. Cheng discloses an interface coupled to a local bus 105. In addition, Cheng discloses that the interface comprises a BIOS and a data/address bus. Applicant submits that the data/address bus within the interface is not a system bus.

Moreover, since the BIOS and data/address bus referred to by the Office Action is within the interface itself, the transfer of data from the BIOS over the data/address bus it is not analogous to receiving disk drive requests at an interface from an external BIOS via a system bus. Further applicant submits that the local bus 105 disclosed in Cheng is most analogous to a system bus, and that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Cheng of receiving disk drive requests from a BIOS via the local bus 105.

Jones discloses a disk drive array controller. The controller includes a microcontroller CPU with embedded ROM and RAM, a bus interface, and five connected disk drives. The ROM 104 contains the firmware for controller. A system bus coupled to the bus interface provides a communication link between the controller and a host computer, which uses the array of disk drives as secondary memory. See Jones at col. 14, ll. 18-27. However, Jones does not disclose or suggest an IDE interface coupled to a system bus that receives disk drive requests from a BIOS via the system bus.

Thompson discloses an array controller that cleans buffer memory as a background task. The controller includes a transfer buffer, a memory that stores an index or table indicating free and non-zero data sectors within the transfer buffer, and processing logic that uses the transfer buffer for data transfer operations, and when otherwise idle, that scans the index table for contiguous sections of free and non-zero data sectors of the transfer buffer and that zeroes at least one of the contiguous sections. See Thompson at Abstract. Nonetheless, Thompson does not disclose or suggest an IDE interface coupled to a system bus that receives disk drive requests from a BIOS via the system bus.

Claim 19 recites an IDE interface coupled to a system bus that receives disk drive requests from a BIOS via the system bus. As discussed above, neither Cheng, Jones nor Thompson disclose or suggest an IDE interface coupled to a system bus that receives disk drive requests from a BIOS via the system bus. Since Cheng, Jones and Thompson fail to disclose or suggest an IDE interface coupled to a system bus that receives disk drive requests from a BIOS via the system bus, any combination of Cheng, Jones and Thompson would also

fail to disclose such a limitation. Therefore, claim 19 is patentable over Cheng and Jones in view of Thompson.

Claims 20-24 depend from claim 19 and include additional limitations. As a result, claims 20-24 are also patentable over the combination of Cheng, Jones and Thompson.

Claim 25 recites transmitting an integrated drive electronics (IDE) request from a Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) onto a system bus and receiving said IDE request at an IDE interface connected to said system bus. Therefore, for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 19, claim 25 is also patentable over the combination of Cheng, Jones and Thompson. Since claims 26 and 27 depend from claim 25 and include additional limitations, claims 26 and 27 are also patentable over the combination of Cheng, Jones and Thompson.

Claim 28 recites an integrated drive electronics (IDE) interface coupled to a system bus that receives disk drive requests from a Basic Input/ Output System (BIOS) separately coupled to the system bus. Therefore, for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 19, claim 28 is also patentable over the combination of Cheng, Jones and Thompson. Because claims 29-34 depend from claim 28 and include additional limitations, claims 29-34 are also patentable over the combination of Cheng, Jones and Thompson.

Claim 35 recites an IDE interface coupled to a system bus that receives requests a BIOS via the system bus. Thus, for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 19, claim 35 is also patentable over the combination of Cheng, Jones and Thompson. Since claims 36 and 37 depend from claim 35 and include additional limitations, claims 36 and 37 are also patentable over the combination of Cheng, Jones and Thompson.

Claims 20, 22, 29, 31, 34 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng and Jones and further in view of Thompson and further in view of Anderson (U.S. Patent 5,905,910). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over any combination of Cheng, Jones, Thompson and Anderson.

Anderson discloses a system for the simultaneous operation of multiple disk drives in a computer. The system includes a first disk drive having an interrupt generating circuit to

generate a first interrupt signal. The first disk drive receives a first disk transfer command from the computer, processes the first disk transfer command, and generates the first interrupt signal upon completion of the first disk data transfer command. The system also includes a second disk drive, also having an interrupt generating circuit to generate a second interrupt signal. The second disk drive receives a second disk transfer command from the computer while the first disk drive is processing the first disk transfer command such that both the first and second disk drives are simultaneously active. The second disk drive processes the second disk transfer command and generates the second interrupt signal upon completion of the second disk data transfer command. See Anderson at col. 1 ll. 49-65.

However, Anderson does not disclose or suggest an IDE interface coupled to a system bus that receives disk drive requests from a BIOS via the system bus. As described above, neither Cheng, Jones, nor Thompson disclose or suggest a bus interface that communicates directly with BIOS. Therefore, any combination of Cheng, Jones, Thompson and Anderson would also not disclose or suggest such a limitation.

Claims 23, 24, 32 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng and Jones and further in view of Thompson and further in view of Jenkins (U.S. Patent 4,047,157). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over any combination of Cheng, Jones, Thompson and Jenkins.

Jenkins discloses a controller for use in a data processing system. Nonetheless, Jenkins does not disclose or suggest an IDE interface coupled to a system bus that receives disk drive requests from a BIOS via the system bus. As described above, neither Cheng, Jones, nor Thompson disclose or suggest a bus interface that communicates directly with BIOS. Accordingly, any combination of Cheng, Jones, Thompson and Jenkins would not disclose or suggest an IDE interface coupled to a system bus that receives disk drive requests from a BIOS via the system bus. Therefore, the present claims are patentable over the combination of Cheng, Jones, Thompson and Jenkins.

Claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng and Jones and further in view of Thompson and Mizuno et al. (U.S. Patent 5,608,891). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over any combination of Cheng, Jones, Thompson and Mizuno.

Mizuno discloses an array type recording system that divides a single circuit into a write circuit and a read circuit. See Mizuno at col. 4, ll. 30-35. However, Mizuno does not disclose or suggest an IDE interface coupled to a system bus that receives disk drive requests from a BIOS via the system bus. As described above, neither Cheng, Jones, nor Thompson disclose or suggest a bus interface that communicates directly with BIOS. Accordingly, any combination of Cheng, Jones, Thompson and Mizuno would not disclose or suggest an IDE interface coupled to a system bus that receives disk drive requests from a BIOS via the system bus. Therefore, the present claims are patentable over the combination of Cheng, Jones, Thompson and Mizuno.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

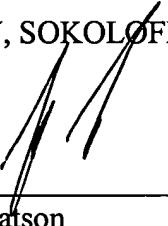
Applicants respectfully petition for a one month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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